

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A solid composition comprising:

a solid binding agent comprising:

MGDA₂

and water, wherein the MGDA cooperates with the water in the formation of the solid binding agent, and the solid binding agent hardens to a solid form within about 1 minute to about 2 hours.

2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the mole ratio of water to MGDA present to form the binding agent is in the range of about 0.3:1 to about 5:1.

3. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the mole ratio of water to MGDA present to form the binding agent is in the range of about 0.5:1 to about 4:1.

4. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the mole ratio of water to MGDA present to form the binding agent is in the range of about 0.6:1 to about 3.8:1.

5. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further includes an additional functional ingredient.

6. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a solid cleaning composition including the binding agent and one or more functional ingredient, wherein the binding agent is distributed throughout the solid cleaning composition and binds the functional ingredient within the solid composition.

7. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a one or more functional ingredient including a chelating agent; a sequestering agent; an inorganic detergent; an alkaline source; an organic detergent; a surfactant; a cleaning agent; a rinse aid; a bleaching agent; a sanitizer; an anti-microbial agent; an activator; a detergent builder; a filler; a defoaming agent, an anti-redeposition agent; an optical brightener; a dye; an odorant; a secondary hardening agent, a solubility modifier, a pesticide, a baits for pests, or mixtures or combinations thereof.
8. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a chelating agent or a sequestering agent, or a mixture or combination thereof.
9. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises an inorganic detergent.
10. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises sodium tripolyphosphate.
11. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises one or more surfactant.
12. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a linear alcohol.
13. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises one or more organic detergent.
14. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a linear alkylsulfonate.
15. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a source of alkalinity.

16. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises an alkali metal salt.
17. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises an alkali metal silicate.
18. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition includes less than a solidification interfering amount of a component that can compete with the MGDA for water and interfere with solidification.
19. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the water used in creating the binding agent is present in the composition in the range of up to about 25 wt. % of the total composition.
20. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the water used in creating the binding agent is present in the composition in the range of about 2 to about 20 wt. % of the total composition.
21. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the MGDA used in creating the binding agent is present in the composition in the range of up to about 98 wt. % of the total composition.
22. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the MGDA used in creating the binding agent is present in the composition in the range of about 5 to about 50 wt. % of the total composition.
23. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is extruded to form a solid block.
24. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is formed into a solid mass having a weight in the range of 50 grams or less.
25. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is formed into a solid mass having a weight in the range of 10 grams or greater.

26. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is formed into a solid mass having a weight in the range of 50 grams or greater.
27. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is formed into a solid mass having a weight in the range of 1 kilogram or greater.
28. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is cast into a solid shape.
29. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is extruded into a solid shape.
30. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is formed into a solid shape.
31. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the solid is in the form of a pellet.
32. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is in the form of a solid block formed within a container.
33. (Currently amended) A solid cleaning composition comprising:
a solid binding agent comprising MGDA and water, wherein the MGDA cooperates with the water in the formation of the solid binding agent, and the solid binding agent hardens to a solid form within about 1 minute to about 2 hours, and wherein the mole ratio of water to MGDA present to form the binding agent is in the range of about 0.3:1 to about 5:1; and
one or more functional ingredient, wherein the binding agent is distributed throughout the solid cleaning composition and binds the functional ingredient within the solid cleaning composition.
34. (Currently amended) A solid cleaning composition produced by the process comprising:
providing one or more functional cleaning ingredients;
providing MGDA;

providing water; and

admixing the one or more functional cleaning ingredients, the MGDA, and the water such that the MGDA and water cooperate to form a solid binding agent that hardens to a solid form within about 1 minute to about 2 hours, and binds the functional cleaning ingredient within the solid cleaning composition.

35. (Original) The solid cleaning composition of claim 34, wherein the mole ratio of water to MGDA provided to form the binding agent is in the range of about 0.3:1 to about 5:1.

36. (Currently amended) A binding agent for a solid composition, the binding agent comprising:

MGDA; and

water, wherein the MGDA cooperates with the water in the formation of the binding agent and hardens to a solid form within about 1 minute to about 2 hours.

37. (Original) The binding agent of claim 36, wherein the mole ratio of water to MGDA is in the range of about 0.3:1 to about 5:1.

38. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a solid composition, the method comprising:

providing MGDA;

providing water; and

admixing the MGDA with the water such that the MGDA cooperates with the water in the formation of a solid binding agent.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the mole ratio of water to MGDA present to form the binding agent is in the range of about 0.3:1 to about 5:1.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the mole ratio of water to MGDA present to form the binding agent is in the range of about 0.5:1 to about 4:1.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the mole ratio of water to MGDA present to form the binding agent is in the range of about 0.6:1 to about 3.8:1.
42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition further includes an additional functional ingredient.
43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition comprises a solid cleaning composition including the binding agent and one or more functional ingredient, wherein the binding agent is distributed throughout the solid cleaning composition and binds the functional ingredient within the solid composition.
44. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition further comprises a one or more functional ingredient including a chelating agent; a sequestering agent; an inorganic detergent; an alkaline source; an organic detergent; a surfactant; a cleaning agent; a rinse aid; a bleaching agent; a sanitizer; an anti-microbial agent; an activator; a detergent builder; a filler; a defoaming agent, an anti-redeposition agent; an optical brightener; a dye; an odorant; a secondary hardening agent, or a solubility modifier, or mixtures or combinations thereof.
45. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition further comprises a chelating agent or a sequestering agent, or a mixture or combination thereof.
46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition further comprises an inorganic detergent.
47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition further comprises sodium tripolyphosphate.
48. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition further comprises one or more surfactant.

49. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition further comprises a linear alcohol.

50. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition further comprises one or more organic detergent.

51. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition further comprises a linear alkylate sulfonate.

52. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition further comprises a source of alkalinity.

53. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition further comprises an alkali metal salt.

54. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition further comprises an alkali metal silicate.

55. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition includes less than a solidification interfering amount of a component that can compete with the MGDA for water and interfere with solidification.

56. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the water used in creating the binding agent is present in the composition in the range of up to about 25 wt. % of the total composition.

57. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the water used in creating the binding agent is present in the composition in the range of about 2 to about 20 wt. % of the total composition.

58. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the MGDA used in creating the binding agent is present in the composition in the range of up to about 98 wt. % of the total composition.

59. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the MGDA used in creating the binding agent is present in the composition in the range of about 5 to about 50 wt. % of the total composition.

60. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is extruded to form a solid block.

61. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is formed into a solid mass having a weight in the range of 50 grams or less.

62. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is formed into a solid mass having a weight in the range of 50 grams or greater.

63. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is formed into a solid mass having a weight in the range of 500 grams or greater.

64. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is formed into a solid mass having a weight in the range of 1 kilogram or greater.

65. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is cast into a solid shape.

66. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is extruded into a solid shape.

67. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is formed into a solid shape.

68. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the solid is in the form of a pellet.

69. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the solid composition is in the form of a solid block formed within a container.